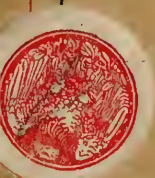


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CHRONICLE

OF THE

LARKIN FAMILY

OF THE

TOWNE *of* WESTERLIE *and* COLONY
of RHOAD ISLAND IN NEW ENGLAND

NUMBER 1, 1908

Published for the Larkin Family Association by
William H. Larkin, Jr., LaPorte, Ind.





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CHRONICLE

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Edward Larkin, Newport, R. I., 1655.

Freeman.

This Edward Larkin who appears as a freeman of the Colony at the time and place noted may be emigrant ancestor. Whence he came is not certain. Some who have made a study of the family genealogy think him son of Edward Larkin of Charleston, Mass., 1638, member of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company. No direct proof of this, however, has been found.

He may have come from the Barbadoes, with which islands Newport at that time carried on a thriving commerce. Hotten's "List of Persons of Quality, Emigrants, Religious Exiles, etc., to the American Plantations, 1600-1700," gives the following: Aboard the *Amitie* 1635, Oct. 13, Geo. Downes, Mr. bound to St. Christophers from the Port of London, Richard Larkyn, age 35. Also "Imbarqued in the *Truelove* de London 1635, Jun. 10, Roger Williams age 16, Thomas Larkyn, age 15.

Edward Larkin was probably an Episcopalian or Church of England man. July 13, 1737, his son subscribed to the founding of the first Episcopal church in Charlestown. 1655 the year of Edward's appearance in Newport was the year of the unearthing of the royalist conspiracy against Lord Protector Cromwell. Edward Larkin as a Church of England man and royalist may have had part in the conspiracy and escaped to the colonies upon its discovery.

Misquamicut. 1660.

About 1660 six Newport men were granted a "patent royal" to a certain fertile valley on the western border of the Colony. This tract first bore the name Misquamicut. This later was changed to Westerly.

The tract of land covered by the grant was ten miles wide by twenty miles long. It was divided into eighteen shares of which Edward Larkin purchased one quarter of one share. This made him proprietor of approximately eighteen hundred acres of land.

The first settlers seem to have taken possession in 1661.

The old Misquamicut boundaries include the present townships of Westerly, Charlestown, Richmond and Hopkinton.

For two and a half centuries this spot has been the home of the Larkin family.

King Philip's War. 1675.

The war with Philip, son of Massasoit, broke out at Swansea July 14, 1675, and quickly spread over the whole New England Frontier. The Narragansett tribe favored Philip's cause and would have joined him had they not been exterminated in an attack on their stronghold ordered by the Colonial Commissioners Nov. 2, 1675. Edward Larkin took part in this war and probably in this expedition. Bodge in his "Soldiers of King Philip's War" states that as a reward to the Connecticut Volunteers, Narragansett

Township (now Voluntown) was given them. A list of those who took part in the war and received Voluntown lots includes Stantons, Pembletons, Griswolds, Babcocks and Edward Larkin who received lot 176, and lot 155 in the "Cedar Swamp."

Revolutionary War Notes.

1776. Mr. John Larkin of Hopkinton, one of a committee from each town to procure arms.

1776. Resolution passed by General Assembly "I, the subscriber, do solemnly declare that I believe the War, Resistance," etc., etc., "just and necessary." etc. Signed by John Larkin, Timothy Larkin, etc.

1776. John Larkin, member of the body which severed the relations of the Colony with Great Britain.

1776. Timothy Larkin, Lieut. Washington (Co.), Row Galley. See "Crowell's Spirit of '76."

1776. Covil Larkin, Soldier of the Revolution.

1777. John Larkin, Ensign, Maxon's Company, Dyer's Regiment.

1777. Samuel Larkin, Elisha Larkin, members of the 2nd Richmond Company. See Richmond Council & Probate Record.

1777. John Larkin, Jr., member Second Company, Richmond. Richmond Council & Probate.

1777. Timothy Larkin, "a sick soldier on duty in this state." R. I. Col. records.

Derivation of the Name. Heraldry.

The name Larkin is derived directly from the older form Laurence or Lawrence which in turn came from the Latin form Laurentius. Its home is Kent, England. See Guppy's "Homes of English Names." Diminutive of Lawrence was Laury or Larry. Termination "kin" means son of. Larrykin, Laurykind, Laukin, Lorkin, Larkin are evidently derivations similar to Jenkin, Hopkin, Atkin, Harkin, Haskin, etc.

As a matter of fact many Larkins in England were granted coats of arms. The arms of some Lawrence families are similar to those granted to Larkins indicating common origin. The Larkin arms were mainly distinguished by the characteristic three leopards faces on an ermine shield. See Fox Davis "Armorial Families," "The Genealogist" of 1878, Burke's "Gen'l Armory" and other authorities.

Larkins in England.

H. B. Guppy says "One hundred years since the principal family of Larkin lived at Grove in Wickham Parish, Kent, and there are several memorials of the family in the church." He states also that in Kent, one quarter of one per cent. of the population bears the name Larkin. Greenwood's "County Kent History" states that Larkin Hall is near Frindsbury Church, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Rochester. On Boley Hill, Rochester is a monument to Chas. Larkin.

See Robert Langdon's book entitled "Charles Dickens and Rochester" for description and cut. Langdon says "of the names of characters throughout the works of Dickens many are drawn from these towns" (Rochester and Chatham). "Jasper, Cobb, Dowler, Larkins and many others are well known local names." Rev. Lambert B. Larking wrote the "Doomsday Book of Kent." John Larking was sheriff of Kent 1800. William Larkins of Lewisham, Kent, was Accomptant General 1772-1793, at Fort William, Bengal under Warren Hastings and the Marquis Conwallis. Edward Larkyn, B. D., was rector of Titsey 1640, etc. Volumes of data are available connecting the names Larkin and Kent County, England.

The Larkin Family Association.

During recent years several persons interested in the history of the Larkin family and desiring to record such facts as were known and available, started independently, and from different motives, a movement in this direction. Mrs. John L. Kenyon of Wyoming, R. I., had long been interested and was probably the pioneer in the field. Mrs. Frank Larkin of Westerly by her work in gathering data has earned the right to lasting gratitude from all. Miss Annette E. Tucker of Attleboro, with practical ends in view, formed a little Larkin Association whose purpose was a social meeting annually. The writer descending from a branch long removed from the family home started an in-

vestigation in the Boston Public Library, purely as a search for information, and resulting from a visit in England. These various energies fortunately have been bonded together and the work and interest now center in the Larkin Family Association which, while yet in the infancy of its usefulness, continues to grow and gain strength. The Association has already met for several years during the summer months. In 1907 it gathered at East Providence, 1908 the meeting was at Watch Hill and for 1909 it is proposed to meet at Narragansett Pier. The secretary of the Association, Miss Annette E. Tucker, 39 Dean St., Attleboro, Mass., will be glad to have the names of those interested on her mailing list. The writer, who is sort of self constituted historian and chronicler of the Association till a more worthy scribe be found, will thankfully receive any data whatsoever relating to the family and furnish inquirers with lines of descent and any other information at hand. It is proposed to publish a family history at some future time, but as it is a work of some years to get together the necessary data, it was thought that the publication, occasionally, of a pamphlet of this kind would meantime hold the interest, tend to promote the welfare of the family Association and bring additional facts to light. The writer has barely outlined the mass of interesting data already on hand. All persons interested are invited to send in the following:

1. Lines of descent yet unrecorded.
2. Facts relating to Military, Naval and Public service of descendants.
3. General facts of interest.

4. Names and addresses of those who are likely to be interested in the Larkin Family Association.

Matters upon which particular information is desired:

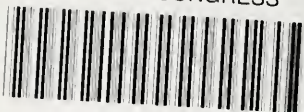
1. What became of the "Great Bible" bequeathed by Edward II? Widow Mary to David III? To Hazard IV?

2. Information bearing on the possible relationship of Edward of Newport, 1655, to Edward Larkin of Charlestown, Mass., 1638.

3. Information relating to the case of Larkin vs. Larkin, Supreme Court of Colony of R. I., 1757-8. Copies of the plats shown in evidence.



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